



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

June 1, 2004

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www.eere.energy.gov/femp/newsevents/insights108.cfm.*

Weekly Summary

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

Congress returns today after a week-long recess.

House Activities of Interest

- Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (Committee on Appropriations) meeting on FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies.
- Subcommittee on Homeland Security (Committee on Appropriations) mark up on FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security (Tentative).

Senate Activities of Interest

No activities of interest have been announced.

FY 2005 BUDGET RESOLUTION/FY 2005 APPROPRIATIONS

Although Congress has yet to pass a non-binding *FY 2005 Budget Resolution*, the House will formally begin the appropriations process this week, with at least one subcommittee hearing or meeting. It is also possible that the House will decide shortly on the “302 (b)” allocations for the 13 annual appropriations bills; the allocations provide the funding caps in which each of the 13 subcommittees craft their appropriations bills. No schedule has been announced for the release of the allocations. This year, agreeing on the allocations will be difficult without the budget resolution framework, which assists appropriators in the annual bill-making process. Congress is working towards a discretionary spending level of \$821 billion.

The House, under the leadership of Bill Young (R/FL) has set as its goal, passage of all 13 appropriations bills by that chamber before the summer recess begins on July 23. Congress is not scheduled to return until after the Labor Day Holiday, which occurs on September 6. Then a short work period resumes until Congress adjourns for the year in early October to focus on the November election. While the House, at this stage, plans to proceed with the passage of 13 individual bills, the Senate may approach the process by combining three bills as into one (e.g., “minibus” vs. omnibus).

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY LEGISLATION

House Actions The House, led by Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R/TX) plans to pursue passage of comprehensive energy legislation after returning from the holiday recess by holding an “energy week” possibly during the second week of June. While details of the initiative have yet to be revealed, House Republicans are expected to focus on persuading the Senate, through the use of the media, to approve the conference report for *H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003*. The report was approved by the House last year, but due to a lack of support, was never presented to Senate for a vote. Despite objections to the House bill, the Senate introduced its own bill earlier this year. *S. 2095* has since been split into two bills, one dealing with policy issues and the other with tax incentives. The tax bill, *S. 1637*, passed the Senate and is now pending in the House.

Last week in a separate action, Jim Nussle (R/IA), Chair of the House Committee on the Budget revealed his plans to introduce an energy bill in June. Narrower in scope, the bill will focus on promoting renewable energy, primarily biomass.

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Legislation

FY 2005 Appropriations The House has begun introducing FY 2005 appropriations bills despite the fact that the *FY 2005 Budget Resolution* has not passed. To date, four bills have been introduced as “condensed” versions of what is normally introduced. Provided below are bill summaries highlighting key provisions of interest to readers of *INSIGHTS*.

H.R. 4421 – FY 2005 Appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency

Buildings and Facilities – \$42.918 million for construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities.

Environmental Programs and Management – \$85 million for construction, alteration, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of facilities.

H.R. 4422 – FY 2005 Appropriations for the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, and Transportation

Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Unspecified funding for repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements (not to exceed 10 percent of current replacement value of building).

H.R. 4423 – FY 2003 Appropriations for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Major Construction Projects – \$401 million to remain available until expended for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the VA facilities, including parking or for planning, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period service costs associated with equipment guarantees, off-site utility systems, etc.

Minor Construction Projects – \$182 million to remain available until expended for constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the agency’s facilities, including parking; planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments; and architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period service costs associated with equipment guarantees, off-site utility systems, etc.

H.R. 44424 – FY 2004 Appropriations for the Military Construction and Family Housing for the Department of Defense

Military Construction (to remain available until September 30, 2009)

- Army – \$2.6 billion

- Air Force – \$915.7 million
- Air Force Reserve – \$929.5 million

Family Housing Construction (to remain available until September 30, 2009)

- Army – \$728.1 million
- Navy and Marine Corps – \$159.2 million
- Air Force – \$969.5 million

SENATE

Legislation

No new legislative initiatives of interest to report.

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III. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

No new bills were introduced – Congress was in recess during the past week.

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IV. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

No new initiatives or announcements of interest to report.

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V. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
June 3 – Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies (NEW)	Charles Taylor (R/NC)	Subcommittee Meeting – FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service	N/A	10:00 a.m. Room B-308 Rayburn Office Building
Week of June Subcommittee on Homeland Security	Harold Rogers (R/KY)	Mark Up – FY 2005 Appropriations for the Department of Homeland	N/A	Tentative – no schedule has been announced

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
<i>(NEW)</i>		Security (includes funding for new headquarters office building)		

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No activities of interest to report.

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No activities of interest to report.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No activities of interest to report.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND FLOOR VOTES

No activities of interest to report.

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